Amendment to the Claims
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims.

1. (previously presented) A method for use with differing metallic electro-mechanical infrastructures of resource-measuring meters, to minimize the effects on the performance of a first RF radiating/receiving element located within one such infrastructure due to its interactions with said such one infrastructure, comprising the step of placing a first metallic structure physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than said such one infrastructure is, wherein said placed first metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising the additional step of placing a second metallic structure physically closer to a second RF radiating/receiving element than said such one infrastructure is, wherein said placed second metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said placing of first and second metallic structures is performed to effect cooperative RF performance of said first and second antennas.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the cooperative performance is achieved by locating said first and second antennas so that the dominant null of the RF radiating/receiving element of one antenna is mitigated by the RF radiating/receiving element of the other antenna.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said placing of first metallic structure includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said

first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure.

6. (previously presented) A method of retrofitting a resource-measuring unit having a metallic infrastructure of prongs, brackets, rivets and metallic elements, with RF telemetry functionality, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing RF functionality with a first RF radiating/receiving element within said infrastructure; and

(b) placing a first metallic structure physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than said infrastructure is,

wherein said placed first metallic structure is radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

(c) placing a second metallic structure physically closer to said second RF radiating/receiving element than said infrastructure is.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said placed second metallic structure is radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said RF functionality activates one or the other of, or both, said first and second slot antennas.

10. (previously presented) An RF telemetry unit for use with differing metallic electro-mechanical infrastructures of resource-measuring meters, comprising:

(a) a first RF radiating/receiving element locatable within one such infrastructure; and

(b) a first metallic structure placed physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than any said one such infrastructure is,

wherein said first metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

11. (previously presented) The unit of claim 10, further comprising:

(d) a second RF radiating/receiving element;

(e) a second metallic structure placed physically closer to said second RF radiating/receiving element than said one such infrastructure is, wherein, wherein placed second metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

12. (previously presented) The unit of claim 11, wherein said first and second metallic structures are located to effect cooperative RF performance of said first and second antennas.

13. (previously presented) The unit of claim 12, wherein the cooperative performance is achieved by locating said first and second antennas so that the dominant null of the radiating/receiving element of one antenna is mitigated by the radiating/receiving element of the other antenna.

14. (previously presented) The unit of claim 13, wherein the meter has a cover and said first antenna is located under said cover.

15. (previously presented) The unit of claim 14, wherein the first metallic structure includes a supporter therefor, having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of the radiating/receiving element, and the supporter is shaped to maximize the amount of surface space available for supporting said first metallic structure.

16. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said placing of first metallic structure includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure.

17. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein said placing of first metallic structure includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure.

18. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein said placing of first metallic structure includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure

19. (new) The method of claim 6, wherein said placing of first metallic structure includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure.

20. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein said placing of first metallic structure

includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure.